

6.3.3 Fauna

6.3.3.1 Terrestrial Fauna (excluding bats)

6.3.3.1.1 Badger

Badger *Meles meles*, and their breeding and resting places, are protected under the Wildlife Acts.

No evidence of badgers, such as setts, snuffle holes or scat, was found onsite.

The habitats found within the Proposed Development site, buildings and artificial surfaces, provide no suitable habitat for badgers.

The local badger populations are valued to be of local importance (lower value).

6.3.3.1.2 Small mammals

Small mammals, pygmy shrew *Sorex minutus* and red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* are protected under the Wildlife Acts. The NBDC database search identified one record of pygmy shrew and red squirrel, c. 2km of the site.

No evidence of any of the small mammal species were found onsite. There was no suitable habitat for pygmy shrew or red squirrel on the Proposed Development site due to the urban environment, and as both species are typically found in woodlands.

The local small mammal populations are valued to be of local importance (lower value)

6.3.3.2 Birds

All wild birds, and their nests and eggs, are protected under the Wildlife Acts. Some bird species are also listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. The following birds were observed within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Development: herring gull *Larus argentatus*, feral pigeon *Columba livia f. domestica*, and rook *Corvus frugilegus*. Feral pigeon and rook are green-listed (i.e. of low conservation concern) in the most recent evaluation of bird populations in Ireland in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Gilbert et al., 2021) and commonly occupy urban environments. Herring gull are amber-listed (of medium conservation concern), due to short term declines in populations on a national level, and have been forced by anthropogenic pressures to occupy and breed in urban environments.

Breeding birds use various habitats, including trees, structures and scrub, for nesting. Three juvenile herring gulls were identified on a building roof off Henry Street within the Proposed Development site, with other potential nests noted from the presence of adolescent herring gulls on other rooftops within the Proposed Development site. No herring gull nests were observed, however. From the internal building inspection surveys, the majority of the buildings surveyed were run-down and partially dilapidated. Feral pigeons were identified using these spaces as potential nesting sites, with droppings and carcasses present in many of the buildings. The older buildings provide good shelter and protection so are ideal for urban nesting sites.

The breeding birds within the Proposed Development site are considered to be of local importance (higher value).

6.3.3.3 Bats

Bats, and their breeding and resting places, are protected under the Wildlife Acts. All bat species are also listed on Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive (with the lesser horseshoe bat also listed on Annex II) and are afforded strict protection under the Habitats Directive and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011.